

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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PreSorted Standard  
CAR-RT SORT M.C.

Congressman Burgess  
stands alongside his 2005  
Academy Nominees.



## Bills Introduced by Congressman Burgess

For specific information about each of my bills, please visit the Library of Congress' internet research engine [www.THOMAS.gov](http://www.THOMAS.gov) which provides detailed information about any legislation before Congress.

### **H.RES.402** ... **Infant Mortality Awareness Month**

*Supports the recognition of September as Infant Mortality Awareness Month*

### **H.RES.534** ... **Iraq Judiciary Resolution**

*Recognizes the importance and credibility of an independent Iraqi judiciary in the formation of a new and democratic Iraq*

### **H.R.35** ... **North Texas Mobility Improvement Act of 2005**

*Authorizes widening from 4-to-6 lanes of I-35 East between FM 2181 and Lake Lewisville*

### **H.R.51** ... **Group Term Life Insurance Tax Adjustment Act**

*Increases from \$50,000 to \$300,000 the amount of employer-provided group term life insurance that an employee can exclude from gross income*

### **H.R.1040** ... **Freedom Flat Tax Act**

*Allows an individual or a person engaged in business activity to elect to pay a flat tax (in lieu of the existing tax provisions)*

### **H.R.1085** ... **Reforming, Accelerating, and Protection Interstate Design Act**

*Allows state and local transportation entities to award a design-build contract so that roads can be built faster*

### **H.R.1086** ... **Safety Emergency Highway Projects**

*Creates a process for the expedited environmental review and approval of safety emergency highway construction or maintenance projects that correct or improve hazardous locations on a highway*

### **H.R.1368** ... **Integrated Water Resources Management Act of 2005**

*Directs that a primary mission of the Army Corps of Engineers should be the provision of technical services and assistance to support planning, conservation, and responsible integrated management of water resources*

### **H.R.2257** ... **Medicare Osteoporosis Measurement Act of 2005**

*Provides for coverage of bone mass measurements for all individuals at clinical risk for osteoporosis*

### **H.R.2793** ... **Recreational Injury Technical Correction Act**

*Prohibits health insurance from denying benefits just because of mode of transportation (motorcycle, snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle, or other similar recreational vehicle or horseback riding)*

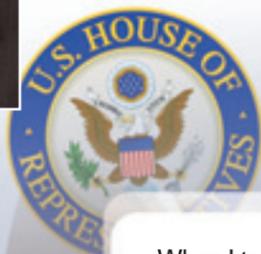
### **H.R.3511** ... **Medicaid State Long-Term Care Partnership Program Act of 2005**

*Allows enrollees to protect their assets if the insurance coverage is exhausted and they have to look to state Medicaid programs to cover their long-term care expenses*



Congressman

# Michael C. Burgess



## 109th Congress YEAR END REPORT

When I took the oath of office as your Congressman, my purpose was to represent the values of the 26th District in Washington, DC. After serving North Texas as a physician for over two decades, it is truly my honor to serve you in Congress.

During the 109th Congress, America has seen growth in jobs, a decrease in taxes, an improved health care system and the ratification of the Iraq Constitution. America has also witnessed great tragedies like the hurricanes that have ravaged the Gulf and East Coasts, the fear of a potential avian flu pandemic, and the loss of brave men and women fighting for victory in the War on Terrorism.

This past year, I have worked diligently to pass legislation that directly benefits my constituency. I have hosted over 70 town hall meetings throughout a district that stretches from the base of Tarrant County to the Red River as well as participated in hundreds of speaking engagements, hosted various specialty events, including a Living Wills Summit, and Medicare Prescription Drug Roll-Out Forums, and detailed East and Southeast Fort Worth Economic Development Summit. The questions and feedback you have provided throughout this year, whether in person at an event or through mail to my office, has been encouraging. You help make me a better representative.

Americans still pay too many taxes to the federal government, but I fight very hard to bring home your hard-earned tax dollars to North Texas. From crucial funding for I-35 to cutting edge research dollars for the University of North Texas, I will make sure your voice is heard in Washington. Common sense and fiscal discipline are still my cornerstones, and I will continue to champion these before the House of Representatives and will be accountable to you.

My new district has a diversity and landscape that mirrors our national character. To continue to offer quality service to all of my constituents, I enlarged my Lewisville District Office and opened an additional office in Fort Worth. Now, an additional caseworker handles the increase in constituent services and a new outreach coordinator is dedicated to serving our community needs first hand. The growth of the 26th District has been enlightening and rewarding, and I am honored to be serving.

My hope is that the following review of the successes of the 109th Congress provides you with a reference to the important legislation handled during this Congress. As always, I encourage you to contact me directly through my website at [www.house.gov/burgess](http://www.house.gov/burgess).

Sincerely,



Michael C. Burgess  
U.S. Congressman for the  
26th Congressional District of Texas

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# Accomplishments of the 109th Congress

## Energy

The House of Representatives passed two energy bills which will make the United States more energy self-sufficient. Highlights of the bills:

- Increases domestic exploration so that we may lessen our reliance on foreign oil
- Expands the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to 1 billion barrels which enables us to dip into a reserve of petroleum when disasters, like hurricanes, impede our usual delivery oil
- Encourages the construction of new refineries and new pipelines to increase the supply of gasoline across the country
- Expands the "Energy Star" program which is a government-industry partnership for promoting energy efficient products

## Health Care

2005 has certainly been a year of great strides in the effort to modernize America's health care system. In Congress, we've passed the following pieces of legislation:

- ✓ **H.R. 5, Malpractice Liability Reform** – sets forth provisions regulating lawsuits for health care liability claims
- ✓ **H.R. 525, Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2005** – makes it easier for small businesses to buy health insurance together
- ✓ **H.R.3511, Medicaid State Long-Term Care Partnership Program Act of 2005** – expands Long-Term Care Partnership Insurance to all 50 states allowing enrollees to protect their assets if the insurance coverage is exhausted and they have to look to state Medicaid programs to cover their long term care expenses
- ✓ **Public Law 109-41, Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005** – designates patient safety data as privileged and confidential
- ✓ **H.R. 3757, Medicaid Health Opportunity Account Act of 2005** – gives states the option to enroll Medicaid beneficiaries into flexible consumer based accounts

## War on Terrorism

Our brave sons and daughters fight courageously in the War on Terror. It is an on-going battle to secure freedom and liberty everywhere.

In 2005 alone:

- ✓ Iraqi citizens voted for their elected officials
- ✓ Iraq ratified its Constitution
- ✓ The trial of the dictator Saddam Hussein began

I have made a pledge, while in Congress, that I will evaluate our progress in Iraq. During meetings with troops from North Texas stationed in Iraq, I was filled with pride for the sacrifices they are making in their lives so we can all be free. Our soldiers made it clear to me that they were honored to be serving America.



Rep. Burgess discusses the War in Iraq with Paul Ferguson, a Pearl Harbor Survivor who frequently greets troops at DFW Airport as part of the Rest and Recuperation Program.

## Katrina/Rita Response

Devastating hurricanes pummeled the Gulf Coast, and the aftermath has greatly affected North Texas. The generosity of our community was miraculous and I know that many of you continue to lend a helping hand as others pick up the pieces of their lives.

Congress is working to evaluate how we can better respond to catastrophic disasters that overwhelm first responders. I have traveled to Southeast Louisiana to review the current health care situation and cannot fully articulate the work that lies ahead.

Congress must:

- Work intelligently in deciding how to revive the Gulf Coast
- Strive to have those affected be integral in rebuilding their communities
- Wisely use the funds and resources we have already made available to assist in recovery

Congress has strict oversight of federal relief efforts after these storms, and we will work to ensure that money is spent judiciously and where it is truly needed. Together, we will all strive for a safer future for all those affected by these storms.

## Community Outreach

### Economic Development Summit

On June 3, 2005, more than 225 participants attended the 2005 East and Southeast Fort Worth Economic Development Summit which aimed to highlight areas where the community could spur economic growth. I was the honorary host for the Summit, which was organized by the Public Forum Institute. Our goal was to define a vision for the economic future of the region, and to develop a set of recommendations to address a number of challenges facing local communities.

### Medicare Prescription Drug Roll-Out Forums

The new Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit will begin on January 1, 2006. Throughout the year, I have hosted several events on Medicare with featured guests HHS Secretary Leavitt and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Commissioner Dr. Mark McClellan. We discussed the specifics of the plan and how it benefits seniors. HHS Secretary Leavitt and I also continue to promote the program through our joint public service announcement. Extra help will be available for those who need it, and a choice of plans will be available for you to pick which one best meets your needs. Enrollment is on-going, so please contact 1-(800)-MEDICARE for more details or visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

CMS Administrator Dr. Mark McClellan, HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt and Congressman Michael Burgess discuss the new Medicare Prescription Drug Program at a public meeting at Medical Center of Lewisville.



## Transportation

On July 29th, the House passed the 2006 Transportation Authorization Bill benefiting Texans:

- Design-Build is a term to describe an innovative project delivery method that combines the design and construction of a toll road project into one contract. The language I placed in the bill allows environmental studies to move ahead of a project, enabling road to be built where they are needed, when they are needed.
- Toll Credits are additional federal dollars used to match state transportation funds for building roads. The language I placed in the transportation bill allows states to obtain these credits in a more timely manner so that the resources are available to reinvest in transportation systems.
- Increases the rate-of-return for federal transportation dollars. Currently, for every \$1 Texans send to Federal Highway Administration, they receive only 88 cents back. Now, there will be a gradual increase in the rate-of-return increasing to 92 cents in 2009.
- Funding for Improvements in North Texas:

### 26th District of Texas Projects

- Widen from 4 to 6 lanes Interstate 35 East from Lake Lewisville to Loop 288
- Union Pacific Railroad Bridge replacement over Business US 287, Fort Worth
- Precinct Line Road Bridge
- Tower 55 CMAQ Congestion and Preliminary Engineering Study
- Add shoulders to FM 156 from Ponder to Krum
- Interstate Highway 820 Widening Project
- Relocation FM 156; Alliance Airport

**\$18,500,000 . . . TOTAL**